

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR KEKKONEN STATE VISIT:

JAAKKO BLOMBERG

REF: STATE 165299

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS DRAWN FROM FINNISH FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S 1974 "CALENDAR" WITH SOME ADDITIONS BY THE
EMBASSY.

A. JAAKKO PEKKA BLOMBERG WAS BORN IN HELSINKI ON APRIL 26,
1942. HE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL ON MAY 31, 1961. HE
RECEIVED THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN POLITICAL SCIENCE ON
MAY 31, 1967, AND LICENCIATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE ON
OCTOBER 28, 1970. BLOMBERG WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF
SECOND LIEUTENANT IN 1962. (IN 1972, HE REFUSED TO GO
TO ARMY RESERVE TRAINING, BUT ATTENDED A NATIONAL DEFENSE
COURSE THIS YEAR AND WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT
WHICH CAUSED PROTESTS IN CONSERVATIVE PARLIAMENTARY
CIRCLES.)

B. BLOMBERG IS MARRIED TO ULLA ELISABETH SODERMAN, BORN IN
1940. THEY HAVE TWO SONS: PEKKA ARTHUR (1971) AND
MIKKO JOHAN (1973). BLOMBERG WAS APPOINTED TO THE
POST OF OFFICE CHIEF IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MARCH 1,
1974. HE DID NOT HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE CUSTOMARY
CIVIL SERVICE TRAINEE PROCESS. BLOMBERG IS A SOCIAL
DEMOCRAT. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, SWEDISH AND FINNISH.

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2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

BLOMBER'S APPOINTMENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS OPENLY POLITICAL, A RELATIVELY RARE OCCURANCE IN FINLAND, BUT EXPLAINED BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' CONTENTION THAT THEY ARE UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE FORMAL FOREIGN POLICY MAKING BODIES. BEFORE JOINING THE MINISTRY BLOMBERG WAS ONE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' MOST PROLIFIC WRITERS ON FOREIGN POLICY (PARTICULARLY SECURITY POLICY) TOPICS. HE, AND HIS CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, WERE CONSIDERED TO BELONG TO THE LEFT-WING OF THE PARTY AND MANY WERE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE ANTI-VIETNAM MOVEMENT AND OTHER THIRD WORLD CAUSES. BLOMBERG APPEARS TO HAVE MODIFIED HIS VIEWS SOMEWHAT SINCE JOINING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT HE IS ALSO VERY AWARE THAT HE NOW SPEAKS AS A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS PRIVATE OPINIONS PROBABLY STILL DIFFER FROM OFFICIAL POLICY TO A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE. BLOMBERG HAS FREQUENTLY BRIEFED POLITICAL OFFICERS ON BILATERAL VISITS TO AND FROM THIRD COUNTRIES BUT HE RARELY VOLUNTEERS ANY "INSIDE" INFORMATION END LOU.

3. BLOMBERG'S FIRST JOB WAS AS A SUMMER CORRESPONDENT FOR DEMARI, THE HELSINKI NEWSPAPER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN 1965. HE WAS LATER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF FOREIGN POLICY, THE JOURNAL OF FINLAND'S PRESTIGIOUS PAASIKIVI SOCIETY. AT THE SAME TIME (1967) HE WAS CULTURAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF FINNISH STUDENTS (SYL). IN 1968-69 HE AND HIS WIFE WERE BOTH FULBRIGHT (ASLA) STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, HE AT BRANDEIS AND SHE AT MIT. (MRS. BLOMBERG, AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN WITH DARK BLOND HAIR, HAS RECENTLY MOVED FROM THE HELSINKI CITY PLANNING OFFICE TO THE CABINET'S PLANNING OFFICE WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING REGIONAL AND CITY PLANNING THROUGHOUT FINLAND.). FROM 1973 UNTIL HE JOINED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BLOMBERG WAS A SECTION CHIEF IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEALING WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES.

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